FACTS THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TELEVISION INTERFERENCE INVOLVING AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS

Contrary to some unjustified rumors, the average amateur radio operator is not intent upon causing anyone any trouble. His primary objective is to render communication service to you, the public, in time of need. He is greatly upset when his station is involved in interference to your television receiver.

The word "amateur" does not necessarily mean the radio amateur is ignorant of the technical aspects of radio, although some are actually beginners. Often, the radio amateur is an expert. In practically every instance the radio amateur has at his disposal expert advice and guidance. Out of necessity for continued cordial relations with you, his neighbor, he has, in general, put his station in order far beyond that anticipated by any engineering requirements stated by the Federal Government.

If you have experienced interference to your television programs from an amateur radio station near you, you have undoubtedly consulted your TV serviceman or dealer and, in many cases, called the amateur to task. In more advanced cases of this controversy, you may have appealed to the Federal Communications Commission. You have heard all the stories. They are confusing to you and you find many conflicting statements. Some of these statements must be in error.

The basic cause of 95% of the television interference from amateur stations has been determined to be due to the **inability of the**

TV set to reject legally authorized amateur signals. This fact has been proved over and over again to many manufacturers of TV sets, to the Federal Communications Commission, and to many TV viewers like you. The TV sets are unable to reject these legally authorized amateur radio signals because the manufacturer **left out some vital parts** and, in some cases, some vital engineering. The necessity for these missing parts and engineering has been widely known in the radio engineering field for several years.

There is no reason for the TV serviceman to be required to provide the parts and engineering the manufacturer left out. All that can reasonably be expected of the TV serviceman is that that he restore the TV set to the performance the manufacturer built into it. One does not expect the refrigerator serviceman or garage man to make a refrigerator or automobile perform better than it did when it left the factory. When the TV serviceman changes the TV set to do something else besides what it would do when it left the factory, then he is not a serviceman any longer. If he undertakes the modification without specific instructions from the manufacturer, he assumes the role of a radio and television engineer and his rate of pay should be increased considerably at this point. You should make sure he is qualified to make such changes. The television serviceman is inclined to shift the blame for your television interference from the manufacturer to the amateur down the street with whom he has not bothered to make a single test. In most cases the amateur involved is better informed about the causes and cures of television interference than the TV serviceman. The advice or counsel of the amateur is much more reliable. He will not, however, do any work on your television set for pay or otherwise.

How can the TV viewer tell when the receiver is unable to reject legally authorized amateur radio signals? Honestly, he cannot always tell. Here is a test a TV viewer can make provided there are other TV sets (usually of different model or brand) in the neighborhood. If the amateur is transmitting signals **in the TV channel** with which you are having trouble, then **every** TV set in the immediate neighborhood should be having the same difficulty. Sets nearer the amateur may have it a little more severly than those further away. Make sure the interference you suspect to be associated with the

amateur station occurs only when the amateur station is transmitting. Have the amateur transmit while you watch your TV set. If possible, conduct your observations with the amateur also on the telephone so you can make certain of the time the transmitter is on and off. If **any** TV set, closer to the amateur station than your set, is clear of the trouble, then it is obvious the amateur is **not** transmitting signals in that TV channel.

Often, the amateur will have his own TV set operating without any trouble at all. If you can establish the fact that the amateur's own TV set is clear or **any other TV set nearer** to the amateur station than your TV set is clear while the amateur station is on the air, then your next step is to demand from your TV dealer satisfactory operation. No amount of argument under these conditions can put the blame for your TV interference on the amateur. The fact that you have owned the TV set for a long period of time, or the service contract has run out, or that you bought it for half price should not alter your demands at all. The fact that it was not correctly built at the outset places **all** the blame on the manufacturer. There are no specific laws upon which you can rely except your right to demand the correct performance from equipment for which you paid your money. This may take the form of your returning the TV set and demanding your money back, or it may cause you to stop payment if it isn't paid out. You could also help protect your neighbors and friends by warning them of the unsatisfactory TV sets made by that manufacturer. You may find that the dealer or serviceman will claim "they have no other trouble like this and the particular amateur must be at fault." This is a favorite trick. Don't believe them!

Fortunately, all need not be lost provided you are able to get reasonable cooperation from your manufacturer **through** your dealer. In nearly every case the TV set can be made to perform satisfactorily by the use of a filter properly installed by someone who knows what he is doing. In many cases where the TV viewer has brought sufficient pressure to bear on the dealer and/or manufacturer, these filters have been installed without cost to the TV viewer. That is, of course, the way it should be.

It has been found that once a filter has been installed properly

in the TV set, many other types of interference were eliminated or greatly reduced. In the absence of other TV sets in the immediate neighborhood which you might observe as indicated above, it is very likely that the amateur will make sufficient tests using a test filter of his own to establish the need for a filter to be permanently installed in your TV set.

The three groups — TV viewers, servicemen, and amateurs — should bury the hatchet and recognize the real offender — TV SET MANUFACTURERS.

There are approximately 117,000 licensed amateurs in this country. There are between 1000 and 1200 amateurs in Milwaukee and the area within 50 miles of Milwaukee. Nearly all of them are very near TV sets. Your TV set is very likely, at one time or another, to be near an amateur radio station. Be sure you demand complete rejection of legally authorized amateur radio signals when you buy a television set! CUSTOMER BEWARE!!

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